

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A receiving element, comprising:  
a bolt having an exterior surface that is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the bolt and that can be introduced into a bore in at least one component, said bolt ~~including or containing~~ consisting of wear-resistant sintered material and including [[a]] an axial recess at a forward end thereof of said bolt and which is positioned along said longitudinal axis, said recess defining a recess bottom; and

a tip comprised of metal arranged at the forward end of said bolt, the tip including an end section which engages in ~~said recess of said bolt, a direct connection between said end section of said tip and said recess in said bolt existing~~ said recess above said recess bottom, said recess being positioned in a connecting area provided at the forward end of said bolt which extends only over a portion of an entire length of said bolt, ~~said tip further including and~~ a forward section which projects axially out of said bolt, said tip further comprising

a transition area being interposed between the forward section of said tip and the forward end of said bolt and which is in contact with said forward end of said bolt, said transition area tapering to said forward section of the tip in a manner such that the receiving element has a stepped exterior contour, said forward section having a maximum external diameter that is less than a corresponding exterior diameter of said bolt by a prescribed amount.

12. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said exterior surface is coaxial with said axis.

13. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said at least one component includes at least two components.

14. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said end section of said tip is joined in said recess to said bolt by at least one of an adhesive joint, shrink fit, press fit or clamp connection.

15. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said end section which engages in said recess has an external diameter that is smaller by a prescribed amount than the maximum external diameter of said forward section.

16. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein a step is provided between said forward section and said end section of said tip that defines an axial stop with respect to said bolt.

17. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said forward section has an exterior surface that tapers substantially conically toward a free end with a prescribed takeout angle.

18. (Currently Amended) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said an exterior surface of said transition area has a transition takeout angle that is substantially greater than ~~the a~~ substantially conical takeout angle of said forward section.

19. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said exterior diameter of said bolt is in a range of 3 to 12 mm.

20. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 19, wherein said range is 3.5 to 10 mm.

21. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 20, wherein said range is 4 to 8.5 mm.

22. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said bolt includes a fastening body that is an integral component of said bolt and that comprises a same material as said bolt, said fastening body being disposed at an other end said bolt opposite to said forward end.

23. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 22, wherein said fastening body includes a flange having an external flange diameter which is larger than said external diameter of said bolt.

24. (Withdrawn) A receiving body according to claim 11, further comprising a fastening body comprised of an electrically insulating material disposed at an other end said bolt opposite to said forward end.

25. (Withdrawn) A receiving element according to claim 24, wherein:  
said bolt includes a second recess; and  
said fastening body includes a connecting section that engages in said second recess.

26. (Withdrawn) A receiving element according to claim 24, wherein said connecting part is joined directly to said bolt by means of at least one of an adhesive joint, a shrink fit, a press fit or a clamp connection.

27. (Withdrawn) A receiving element according to claim 24, wherein said fastening body includes a flange having an external flange diameter which is larger than said external diameter of said bolt.

28. (Withdrawn) A receiving element according to claim 27, wherein:  
said bolt includes a second recess; and  
said fastening body includes a connecting section that engages in said second recess.

29. (Withdrawn) A receiving element according to claim 28, wherein said connecting part is joined directly to said bolt by means of at least one of an adhesive joint, a shrink fit, a press fit or a clamp connection.

30. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said wear-resistant sintered materials comprise oxide ceramics or non-oxide ceramics.

31. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 30, said ceramics include  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , or  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ , or mixtures thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said portion of the entire length of said bolt extends over less than 50% of said entire length.

33. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 32, wherein said portion of the entire length of said bolt extends over less than 30% of said entire length.

34. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 11, wherein said receiving element is configured for use in welding equipment.

35. (Previously Presented) A receiving element according to claim 34, wherein said welding equipment includes a pressure welding tool.